

# WRESTLING SPOTLIGHT

Volume No.9

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ROCKERS





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## S P O T L I G H T

# A Note From The Publisher

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OU'VE

asked for it repeatedly. So here we go. This issue of *WWF Wrestling Spotlight* brings you the Rockers, Shawn Michaels and Marty Jannetty. Seldom if ever have two such dazzling young stars gripped the hearts and minds of WWF fans. Flashy, enthusiastic and ever-ready to give their all, Michaels and Jannetty are experiencing tremendous ring success in the flush of their exuberant youth.

In this issue, we look at the Rockers' skyrocketing career and, even better, bring you their inner feelings about who they think they are and what they want to be. It's an exhilarating look at a high-flying duo who leave excitement in their wake everywhere they go.

Talking with and writing about Shawn Michaels and Marty Jannetty was enjoyable. Their enthusiasm is catching, to say the least. We hope that you, too, will feel the verve of these two fine young men and athletes when you read this issue of *WWF Wrestling Spotlight*. Enjoy it and be part of the excitement of the Rockers.

*Tom Jannetty*

Tom H.W. Emanuel  
Publisher &  
Editor-in-Chief



Cover Photo: Steve D'Amico



# Rock Anthology

by Keith Elliot Greenberg

## An Overview Of The Rockers

S

TYLE OVER SUB-stance!" barked WWF television announcer Jesse "The Body" Ventura shortly after the Rockers' first bout on *WWF Superstars of Wrestling*. The youthful, handsome duo of Shawn Michaels and Marty Jannetty had just blurred across the ring in their fluorescent tights, dispatching their opponents in dynamic fashion. Longtime wrestling observers were almost as overwhelmed as the Rockers' opponents. It was clear that the enthusiastic, inventive tandem was bound for big things.

Only Jesse the Body offered the voice of dissension. "They're pretty boys!" he yelled. "Nothing more, nothing less! They'd be OK if this was some MTV glam-metal video, but it's not—it's the World Wrestling Federation, and you've got to be tough to make it here. Shawn Michaels and Marty Jannetty? Don't even write their names down. In six months you won't remember them—and that's tellin' it like it is!"

Jesse Ventura, you were wrong.

Michaels and Jannetty proved almost immediately that their poster-boy good looks were just gravy on a creative, well-stocked wrestling arsenal. Sure, the two could fly across the ring, but that wasn't all. They could match technical wits, as they've done with teams such as the Fabulous Rougeau Brothers and the Orient Express or slug it out

*The Rockers utilize the dynamics of flight in order to disable their opponents. Since their arrival into the World Wrestling Federation, they have put together a formidable aerial assault.*





back-alley style, as the Powers of Pain found out. Most significantly, they could plan, forsaking a manager to formulate their own complicated strategies and coordinating team maneuvers the likes of which had never been seen in the ring.

"Yeah, we've heard the criticism, people saying we're too cute," Michaels states, his lip curling up slightly. "Hey, it's not our fault we look this way. But we know a lot of teams out there would like nothing better than to take our faces and mangle them. And, in the World Wrestling Federation, a lot of teams could do it, too. We've been in that ring a while, and we're still rockin' and rollin' and looking good. I think that says something."

The Rockers have risen to the top of their game by earning the title "the masters of motion."

"They move so quickly, it's amazing that they don't smash into each other and disintegrate," admits one former opponent. "But their timing's so perfect that each always knows what the other's doing. No one else does, though. They're on the mat, in the air, on the ropes, tagging in and tagging out. I don't consider my loss to them something to be ashamed about. I consider it an introduction to tag team wrestling."

But the Rockers are also "the tag team specialists." "Before we entered the World Wrestling Federation, we knew how tough it was going to be," Jannetty explains. "So we spent just as much time in the video library as we did in the gymnasium. We watched all the great tag teams on tape—all the WWF champions. And then we pledged to add to what they had done, take it all a step further. From the day we started, we wanted the world to define tag teaming in Rocker terms."

One of the first contests in which the duo's fortitude would be tested was the 1988 *Survivor Series*. The Rockers were members of a team captained by the Powers of Pain, pitted against a squad headed by Demolition. While the bout would only aggravate tensions in the long-standing war







**One of the Rockers' first battles was against the Brain Busters, whom Marty and Shawn seriously battered. This infuriated the Busters' manager, Bobby Heenan, who abandoned his inept team. Then the Rockers warred with the Rougeaus, who sneak-attacked them with a megaphone.**

between Demolition and their rival captains, the *Survivor Series* marked the start of a new struggle—the Rockers vs. the Brain Busters. The teams had already engaged in a few skirmishes and came to the match gunning for each other.

"The Brain Busters were the first tag team to really single us out," Michaels recalls. "I think a lot of that had to do with their manager, Bobby 'The Weasel' "

Heenan. The thought of two young guys like us making our own decisions without the aid of a manager just burned him. We knew that he'd instruct the Brain Busters to take us out at the *Survivor Series*, and we were more than happy to give it back to them."

With the world watching the pay-per-view telecast, the Rockers and Brain Busters ferociously clawed at each other, brawling on the arena floor and then all the way back to the dressing room.

"Bobby Heenan used the Brain Busters to try to prove a point," Jannetty says. "He wanted to show the world that we weren't so hot. Well, whether it was at the *Survivor Series* or our matches with the Brain Busters after that, we never let up. Heenan wanted to wear us down, and I think he



got the opposite result. I mean, look at the facts: The Rockers are still going strong, and the Busters are long, long gone."

The Rockers' rhythmic quotations, along with their poetic wrestling styles, soon infuriated another manager, Jimmy "Mouth of the South" Hart. A onetime pop star with the Gentrys, Hart fancied himself as the WWF's king of rock 'n' roll and took special exception to the Rockers' unique form of "jamming." When his tag team, the Fabulous Rougeau Brothers, had their song *All American Boy* cut off on the public address system and replaced by the Rockers' theme, Hart became doubly incensed. He ordered his charges to show no mercy on the popular stars, and during a ringside free-for-all, Michaels' neck was intentionally injured by the French Canadian-born brothers.

"That was one of the low points of my career," Michaels recounts. "I was laid up, and the doctors

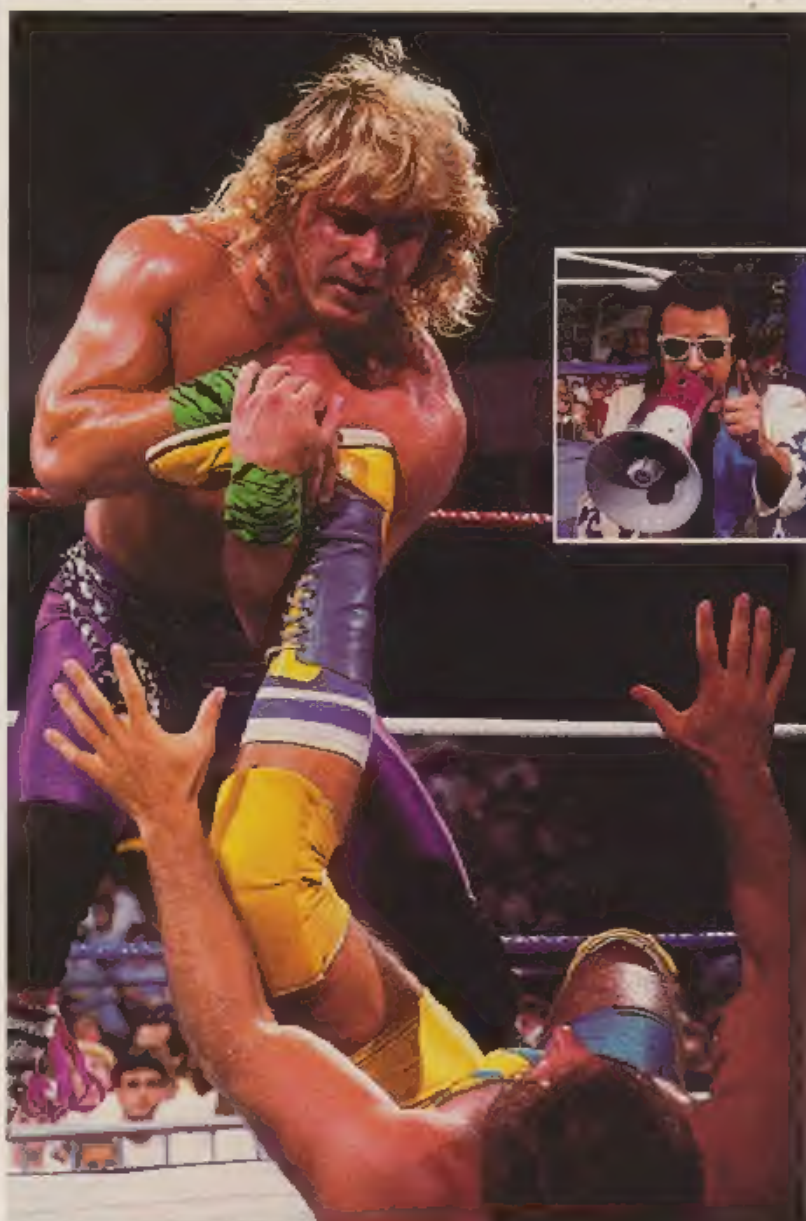




were saying they weren't sure if I'd ever return to the ring. Somehow, I knew they were wrong. I felt that I had to go back. I just wasn't ready to give up everything I had worked for. I owed it to Marty, and I owed it to all the people who came to the arena to cheer us on. And I also owed the Rougeaus something—a Top 40 whupping."

In fact, in their first few matches with the Rougeaus, the Rockers seemed more determined to mete out revenge than to log a victory. "We might be the tag team specialists," Jannetty says, "but against the Rougeaus, we felt more like an avenging army."

Despite warnings to be cautious, Michaels flew at the Rougeaus with the throttle down. In one bout shortly after his recovery, he stunned spectators by coming to the ring with a bandage still around his throat. "He was just inviting the Rougeaus to battle," says a friend. "It was as if he was saying, 'Here's my injured neck. Try to hurt it again. I dare you.' Whenever the Rougeau Brothers would take the bait, Shawn and Marty



would go wild."

In this particular match, the Rockers spent much of the opening minutes chasing the Rougeaus and their manager around and around the ringside area. Eventually, Michaels caught up with Jacques Rougeau in the ring and slammed his head into the turnbuckles 10 times. After he fell backward to the mat, nearly unconscious, each Roker took turns splashing his fallen form. When Raymond Rougeau attempted to slip into the ring on behalf of his brother, he didn't fare much better—the Rockers blasted him with a

***With aerial maneuvers and on-the-mat tactics, the Rockers dominated Jimmy Hart's Rougeaus. At WrestleMania V, the Rockers took on the Twin Towers, Akceem and the Boss Man. Although out-weighted, the Rockers nailed the Towers with many moves from their unique wrestling arsenal.***

double dropkick.

But the presence of Jimmy Hart would prove an important factor in the first few confrontations between the teams. So overzealous were the Rockers at teaching their opponents a lesson that they were easily distracted by the





manager and then double-teamed by the Rougeaus. However, Michaels and Jannetty refused to be psyched out by Hart's tactics. With each bout, they learned and improved, until they were able to use the Rougeaus' techniques against them.

By the time the battle reached the Palais Omnisport in Paris, France, the Rockers had advanced

to the point that they could not be beaten. As the French-speaking crowd threw its support solidly behind Michaels and Jannetty, the Rockers overcame every obstacle. Even in the closing moments of the match, when Jacques executed a piledriver and covered Jannetty for the pin, the Rockers found a way to gain an advantage. Michaels rushed into the ring to intervene



From the other side, Raymond stepped through the ropes to block him. As the referee cut off Raymond, Michaels lifted and delivered a piledriver to Jacques, placed Jannetty on top of him and returned to the corner while the referee spun around to count the pinfall.

However, in the world of professional wrestling, there is rarely time to celebrate before someone else steps into the picture to humble you. The devious Mr. Fuji, seeking to strike while the Rockers were off-guard, snuck up to ringside after one of the duo's triumphs and started tormenting them. Michaels and Jannetty looked at one another for a moment, then gave the manager what he came for—a double dropkick and double fistdrop. According to the plan Fuji conceived beforehand, his team of Warlord and Barbarian, the Powers of Pain, charged out of the dressing room and attacked the Rockers.

"Fuji expected the Rockers just to shrink away from the wrestling scene," says a source close to the Powers of Pain. "Warlord and Barbarian are chiseled monsters. They're huge compared with the Rockers and savage between the ropes. Michaels and Jannetty shocked Fuji when they demanded a match with his team. They shocked a lot of people."

Their time in the WWF had



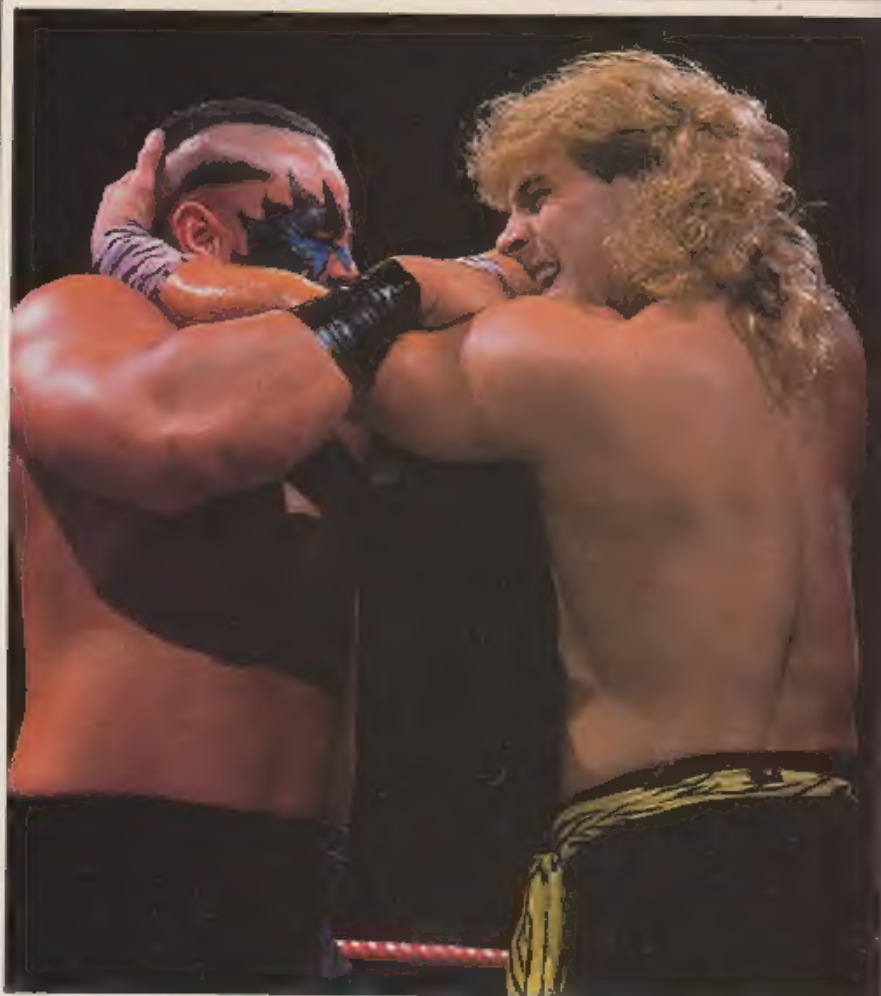
convinced the Rockers that they could withstand this difficult challenge. Although they considered the Powers' immense proportions, they were not unaccustomed to taking on larger opponents. During *WrestleMania V*, the Rockers squared off against the Twin Towers, Big Boss Man and Akeem, and stunned them with simultaneously executed maneuvers. Having recuperated from his thrashing by the Rougeaus, Michaels was aware of his capacity to overcome pain. Then there was the matter of courage. The Powers of Pain had tried to humiliate the Rockers, and now the Rockers were committed to cutting them down—valiantly.

"Just looking across the ring at guys like Warlord and Barbarian is enough to make some wrestlers run back to the dressing room," says Jannetty. "They're awesome. But so are we, in a different way. When the Powers of Pain jumped us, I told Shawn, 'Be strong, brother. We're going to take down a volcano.'"

The task was as difficult as anything the Rockers ever faced, but they got around the rough spots by using innovative team moves. After Michaels was outmuscled by Barbarian, he ran the ropes and hurtled himself at his big adversary with a flying bodypress attempt. Barbarian caught the Rocker in midair and tried to slam him onto the mat. But before this could be achieved, Jannetty sailed off the turnbuckles onto his partner's back, forcing Barbarian down to the canvas for a near-fall.

Later in the match, Michaels compensated for the height disadvantage by backing Warlord into the turnbuckles, mounting the second rope and hammering downward with hard fists. Believing it was time to finish up the night, the Rocker tried a sunset flip. Warlord resisted, struggling to remain standing while Michaels endeavored to turn him over. In a flash, Jannetty was aiding his partner, delivering a high cross-bodyblock to the squirming Warlord.

It was only the intervention of







**The Rockers then went against the Powers of Pain, the massive Warlord and Barbarian, managed by Mr. Fuji. After Fuji sold the Powers' contracts to different managers, however, he signed the Orient Express, Sato and Tanaka, and quickly launched them against Marty and Shawn.**

Mr. Fuji that cheated the Rockers out of a clear-cut win against their heavily favored foes. And Fuji was so taken aback at the Rockers diversified repertoire that he scanned the world to find another team to eliminate them. While home in Japan, he discovered the Orient Express.

On paper, Sato and Tanaka were evenly matched with the Rockers. Both teams favor the airborne assault and are proficient at capitalizing on the five seconds

after a tag when both members of a squad can be in the ring. However, the Orient Express has Mr. Fuji—an admitted expert at twisting the rules. At *WrestleMania VI*, the Rockers received another painful education in the manager's cruel tricks. Jannetty was temporarily blinded outside the ring when salt was thrown in his eyes.

In a rematch, the Orient Express tried to keep the edge by pouncing on the Rockers, whipping them both into the ropes and bending to backflip them. But Michaels and Jannetty managed to put on the brakes before the routine

could be completed, stopping in front of their opponents by slamming their heads together.

Even when the Express was at its best, the Rockers were better. At one stage, Michaels backflipped Tanaka, who wiggled around in midair, positioned himself perfectly and landed on his feet. But before Tanaka could gloat, Michaels spun around and leveled him with a clothesline.

The match ended with Tanaka flat on his back and the Rockers in opposite corners of the ring, prepared to execute a double fistdrop from the top turnbuckle. However, Sato managed to disrupt the Rockers' plan, and all four combatants—along with Mr. Fuji—ended up duking it out on the arena floor. Remarkably, both Rockers ceased fighting at the exact same time and slid into the ring before the referee completed his 10-count. Michaels and Jannetty had scored a count-out victory over Fuji's team.

"Hey, Fuji," Jannetty tormented the manager as his hand was raised triumphantly, "keep trying."

The Rockers intend to keep trying, challenging the toughest opponents and bettering themselves, becoming the standard against which future tag teams will measure themselves. On the near horizon is a confrontation with Hercules and Paul Roma. Power and Glory.

"Power and Glory's the idea tag team for us to wrestle at this stage in our career," Michaels says. "Roma knows how to fly just like us—he has the highest dropkick in the sport—and Hercules is a big, muscular brawler with a ton of experience. Guys like that come to the ring to fight, and that's OK with the Rockers, baby."

Feeling the heat between the ropes has never inhibited the Rockers. They wrestle with flair, and the girls all want the pictures, but that's not why Michaels and Jannetty are in wrestling. They're here because they love to wrestle—something that's easy to do when you're a tag team that puts substance over style. **WF**

# The Rockers

by Keith Elliot Greenberg

## Tag Team Specialists

**T**HE REAL STORY OF the Rockers begins long before Shawn Michaels and Marty Jannetty made their first appearance in a World Wrestling Federation ring. In fact, it begins far from any arena, in a hot, stuffy gym, where Michaels and Jannetty ran into each other by accident.

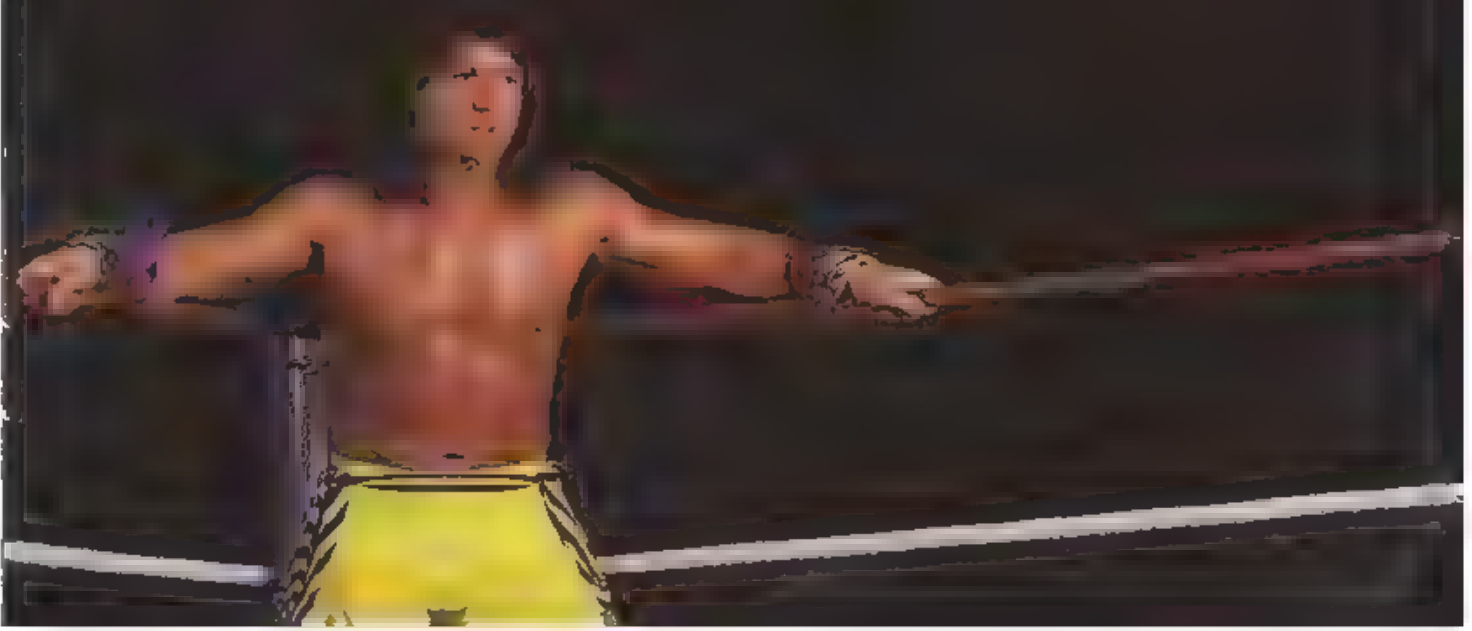
"Both of us were working out, and I guess we hit it off with each other because of the long hair and rock 'n' roll attitude," Jannetty says. "I think, at first, each of us wanted to be individual stars, but after playing around in the ring for a few minutes, we saw the enormous potential in tag teaming."

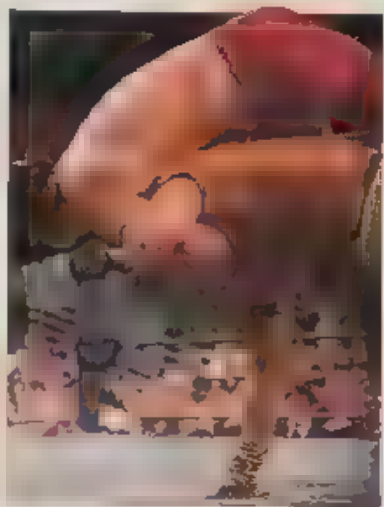
What caused the change of heart? As both Rockers tell it, the realization that they shared an uncanny sense of timing that—combined with their natural talents—would allow the Rockers to perform the one-of-a-kind team maneuvers responsible for their title, "the tag team specialists."

"If I didn't know better, I'd think that some scientist had created the Rockers in a laboratory somewhere and programmed them like a computer," says *WWF Wrestling Challenge* commentator Gorilla Monsoon. "They work together like no tag team I've ever seen—and I've been in the WWF as a wrestler and announcer, since the 1960s. The way they cover that ring, moving at high speeds to execute brilliant

***For good reasons, Marty Jannetty and Shawn Michaels are recognized as tag team specialists. And every time they wrestle, they give that term credence.***







team moves, amazes me. They don't even have to talk to each other before they bewilder their opponents—Michaels and Jannetty seem to communicate by instinct. The reason the Rockers are so successful is that, by just being themselves, they're sensational.

But the Rocker repertoire was not created out of thin air. "We spent months preparing for the WWF," Michaels says. "We must have tried a million moves and then boiled it down to the best 100 or so. Even now, with our traveling schedule as hectic as it is, we try to get to the gym for a couple of hours every day. We want to learn from and improve on our mistakes, create new maneuvers and just stay fresh. Because, in the WWF, if you allow yourself to get stale, no one remembers how good you were two months ago."

Perhaps the reason the Rockers function so well as a duo is the fact that each is a diversified individual wrestler—quick, aerial and cagey—not unlike Macho King Randy Savage, Tito Santana and Bret "Hit Man" Hart. "If they weren't teaming together, both Michaels and Jannetty would be burning up the WWF individually," Monsoon says. "Maybe going after Texas Tornado's Intercontinental Belt or giving a headliner like Ravishing Rick Rude a run for his money. That in itself is the stuff of a great tag team—a combination of wrestlers, each capable of challenging for a championship."



After suffering injuries at the hands of the Fabulous Rougeau Brothers and the Powers of Pain, Shawn Michaels has grown into the consummate defensive wrestler, skilled at turning adversity to his advantage. On more than one occasion, he has been whipped into the ring corner and managed to grip onto the top rope as his

opponent charged him. Vaulting over his foe to avoid being squashed, Michaels has then executed any number of moves, most notably the high hip toss.

Jannetty has conjured up images of Jake "The Snake" Roberts with his ability to improvise new maneuvers in the midst of battle. He can turn a simple





***Jannetty and Michaels have held their own against such teams as the Orient Express and the physically imposing Demolition trio. Against these teams or for that matter, against any squad, the Rockers achieve success by nailing their foes with synchronized double-teaming tactics.***

wristlock into a complicated punisher by wringing his adversary's arm, hooking a leg over the back of the man's head and—still gripping the wrist while rolling onto the mat—delivering a racking head scissors variation.

"I've seen guys in this sport who let their headlines stunt their wrestling growth," reflects Jannetty. "If you believe all the praise and never try to go one step farther, people will figure out your strategies pretty fast. And all the hours in the gym are useless if you can't think on your toes. When the battles rage and you can stun your opponent with something no one's ever seen before, you're on your way as a gladiator."

Another essential element for a squad like the Rockers is taking advantage of the time both part-

ners are in the ring. "It means that you tag out anticipating what your teammate's going to do when he tags in," Michaels explains. An example would be Michaels' tagging Jannetty before placing a foe in an armlock. Jannetty enters the ring via the turnbuckles, coming down hard on the limb held in place by Michaels.

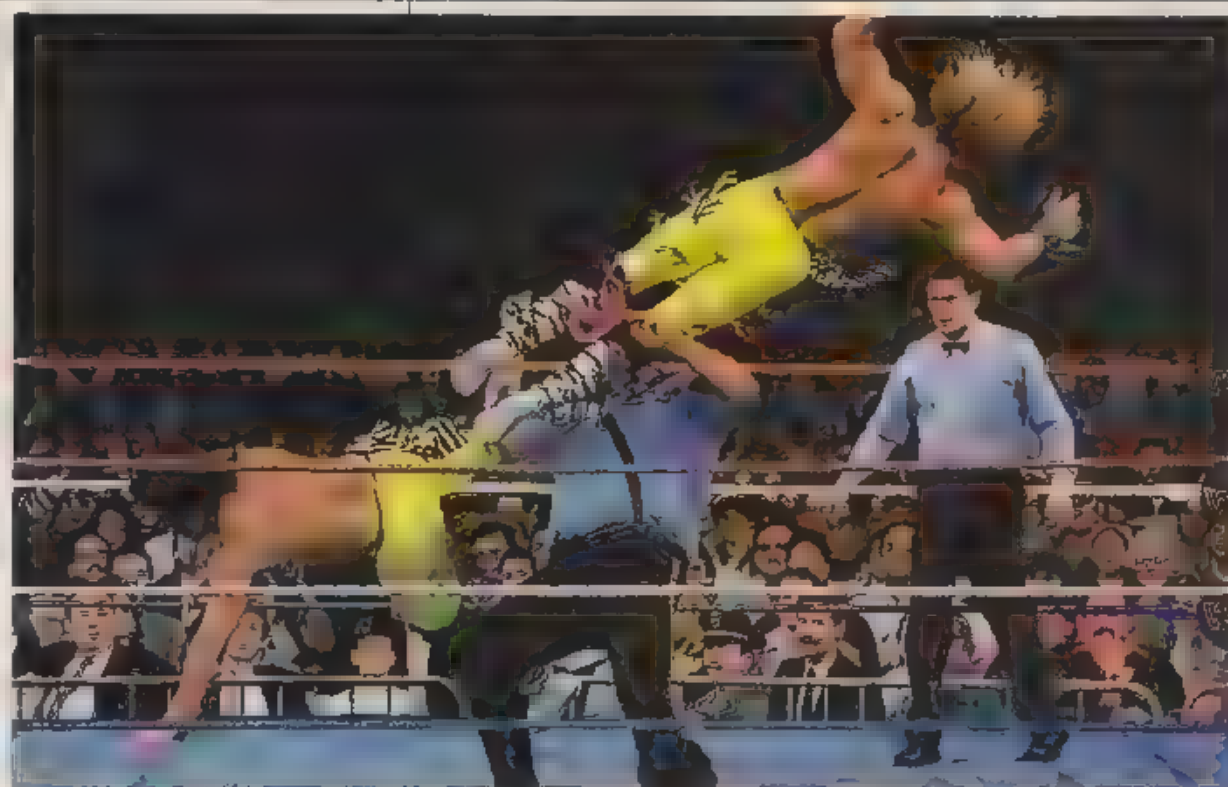
Then there are awe-inspiring sequence maneuvers—one move after another executed by both partners in unison. For instance, Michaels and Jannetty might each take an opponent's arm and wring it forward, then backward. As the wrestler's agonizing, the Rockers will next execute a double thrustkick into the man's ribs, followed by a double whip backdrop and double clothesline onto the arena floor.

There are also defensive team moves, dependent upon both partners' being able to think on the exact same wavelength. "If your minds aren't working in sync, you can get yourself in a lot of danger," Jannetty states. "But if the two of you can think as one, it is next to impossible for another

team to defeat you."

A short time back, a squad facing the Rockers tried to deliver a few team moves of their own, only to be outclassed by the "Masters of Motion." Michaels and Jannetty were whipped into the ropes, and their opponents were preparing to level them with simultaneous clotheslines. Instead, the Rockers hit the deck, slid under their adversaries' feet and fired off dual dropkicks before the rivals could even turn around.

What puts the Rockers in a category all their own is the team's knack of surprising their opponents with well-conceived maneuvers combining offense and defense. "These types of moves developed as we developed as a team," Michaels explains. "From the start, Marty and I both had foundations as good defensive athletes. And I think both of us could astonish a foe with a move or a series of moves the media would call 'dynamic.' But it was combining everything—putting it all together in one package—that took a good deal of work until these moves, like a



**At WrestleMania V, the Rockers used dropkicks against the Twin Towers. The dropkick also helped them against the Hart Foundation.**

the others, just came naturally' in one bout, Michaels was whipped into the ropes and rebounded back toward his foe who bent to deliver a high back-bodydrop. Thinking several paces ahead of his opponent, Michaels managed to leapfrog over the wrestler's back and tag Jannetty. By the time the Rockers' rival realized what had transpired, it was too late for him. Michaels was back in his team's corner while Jannetty, in the center of the ring, dropkicked his adversary. "That's turning a minus into a plus," Jannetty was heard to declare as his foe hit the mat.

Even moves considered mainstays in the world of wrestling have taken on special significance, thanks to the Rockers. One that comes to mind is the fist-drop, used by many wrestlers to soften up an opponent for the finish of a match. However, in the possession of the Rockers, the fist-



drop has become *the* finisher. Michaels might propel himself off Jannetty's shoulders, fistdropping a fallen foe before hooking his leg for the pin. Other times, the Rockers go to opposite ends of the ring, mounting the turnbuckles and simultaneously fistdropping a victim already sprawled out in the center of the canvas. Either way, with the Rockers calling the plays, the maneuver is more pulverizing

than ever before.

Just like a heavy metal band that has shaken the music world, the Rockers have forged a hard-driving edge into professional wrestling. By revising traditional maneuvers and composing original moves, they long ago proved that they're not one-tune wonders, but thundering survivors, with albums full of devastating hits yet to be released. **WF**



# The Rockers Trivia Quiz

By Larry Humber



— HINK YOU

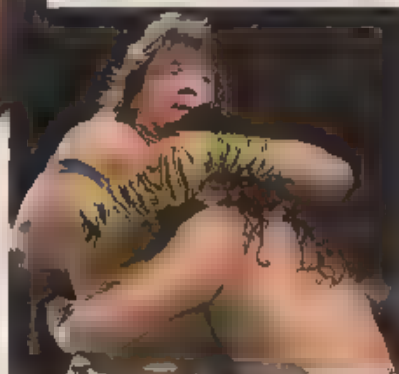
know all there is to know about Shawn and Marty? Find out by taking the Rockers Trivia Quiz.

There are five categories of questions, followed by a special Tough Stuff section. The first five categories are for your entertainment only. There are five questions in each, for a total of 25.

Award yourself a point for every correct answer. Anything over 20 would make Shawn and Marty proud; over 15, not bad.

The final category, Tough Stuff, will really have you scratching your head. That's why we're asking readers to send in their answers to those five questions.

The answers will be published in the next issue of *WWF Wrestling Spotlight*, along with the names of the first five readers who come up with all the answers. They'll receive a free membership to the WWF Fan Club.



### ROCK AROUND THE CLOCK

- 1 What city does Marty Jannetty call home?
- 2 Where does Shawn Michaels hail from?
- 3 At *SummerSlam* whom did the Rockers face?
- 4 What's their trademark move?
- 5 Their combined weight is 423, 463 or 500 lbs.?

### WRESTLEMANIA REVIEW

- 6 The Rockers took on what twosome at *WrestleMania VI* in Toronto?
- 7 Their opponents' manager got into the act by using what object to trip Marty?
- 8 How did this bout wind up?
- 9 What now-separated twosome did the Rockers meet at *WrestleMania V*?
- 10 Who pinned whom to end that match?

### ROYAL ROCKERS

- 11 At the 1990 *Royal Rumble* in Orlando which Rocker was the first to appear?

- 12 He was among the first men in the ring. What was his number?
- 13 He was quickly eliminated. Who did the dirty work?
- 14 The second Rocker was more fortunate. He entered the ring in the 26th spot, just following which WWF superstar, the eventual winner of the *Royal Rumble*?
- 15 Who eliminated the second Rocker?

### MAKING WAVES

- 16 Which outspoken WWF commentator repeatedly told TV audiences that the Rockers illegally double team?
- 17 In response, Shawn said that the accuser should get himself a pair of what?
- 18 Whom did the Rockers once call the Ragus?
- 19 Which mouthy manager once labeled the Rockers "two rock n' roll burnouts"?
- 20 The Rockers like to say that they do what as hard as they wrestle?

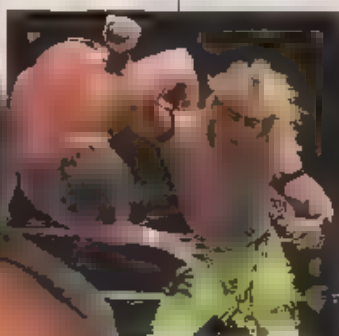
### 1989 BATTLES

- 21 The Rockers teamed up with the Ultimate Warrior and what other wrestler at the 1989 *Survivor Series*?
- 22 They took on a team headed by what behemoth?
- 23 Who was the bout's sole survivor?
- 24 At *SummerSlam '89*, the Rockers were joined by what wrestler when they took on Rick Martel and the Rougeaus?
- 25 Who pinned Marty—who was not even the legal man in the ring—to end that bout?

### TOUGH STUFF

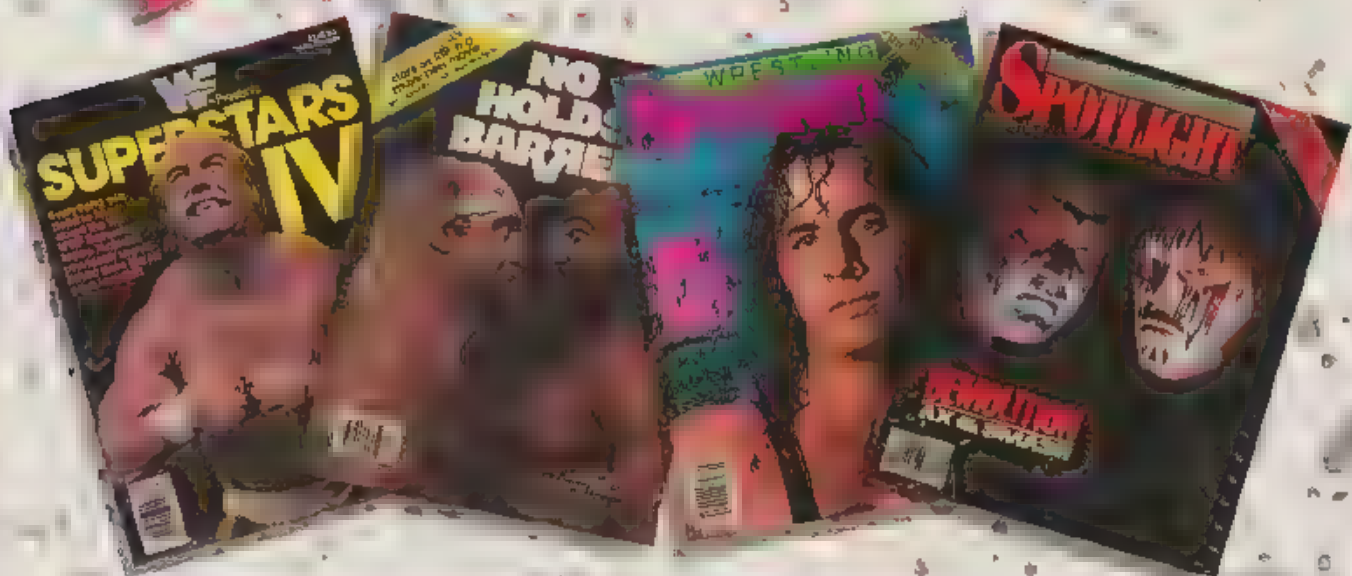
(Send answers to *WWF Magazine*, P.O. Box 3859, Stamford, CT 06905. Postcards only, please.)

- a) What are the birthdays of Shawn Michaels and Marty Jannetty?
- b) When did the Rockers first grace the cover of *WWF Magazine*?
- c) The Rockers made one of their first World Wrestling Federation appearances at the 1989 *Royal Rumble* in Houston. Which Rocker was first in the ring at that event, and at what number did he enter?
- d) Shawn and Marty were pictured signing autographs for the delighted fans at what dining establishment in an early 1990 issue of *WWF Magazine*?
- e) The Rockers were pictured with what popular Hollywood film actor in a 1989 issue of *WWF Magazine*?





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# Shawn Michaels Talks

by Lou Gianfriddo

## Each Rocker Speaks His Own Piece



WHEN THE ROCKERS discovered that they were going to be featured in this issue of *WWF Wrestling Spotlight*, both Jannetty and Michaels willingly opened up and told us all that we wanted to know. Instead of interviewing them simultaneously, *WWF Spotlight* magazine went a step beyond by talking with the Rockers on a one-on-one basis. As you will soon find out, Marty and Shawn had much to say about themselves, their future, their partnership and more.

When pressed with the question about his being a top-rated professional athlete, Shawn Michaels had these comments:

"To me, talking on the best wrestlers in the WWF is a key part of my life," says Shawn, removing his sunglasses. "But there's another part of Shawn Michaels that I'd like to talk about as well."

"You see, like my partner, I like to live life in the fast lane, brother," the Rocker goes on with a grin. "I like going out to the clubs, meeting all the pretty babes out there. I like to listen to my rock 'n' roll very loud and have it go on all day and all night, brother. That's what I love almost as much as I love competing in the World Wrestling Federation."

*Rocker Shawn Michaels had a lot to say about the Rockers' career when WWF Wrestling Spotlight interviewed him.*







Competing against the most proficient athletes in the WWF is something at which Shawn excels. In the ring, he always gives 100 percent, never backing down and always ready to make crucial tags. To Shawn Michaels, this is what it takes to be an active member of a world-renowned duo.

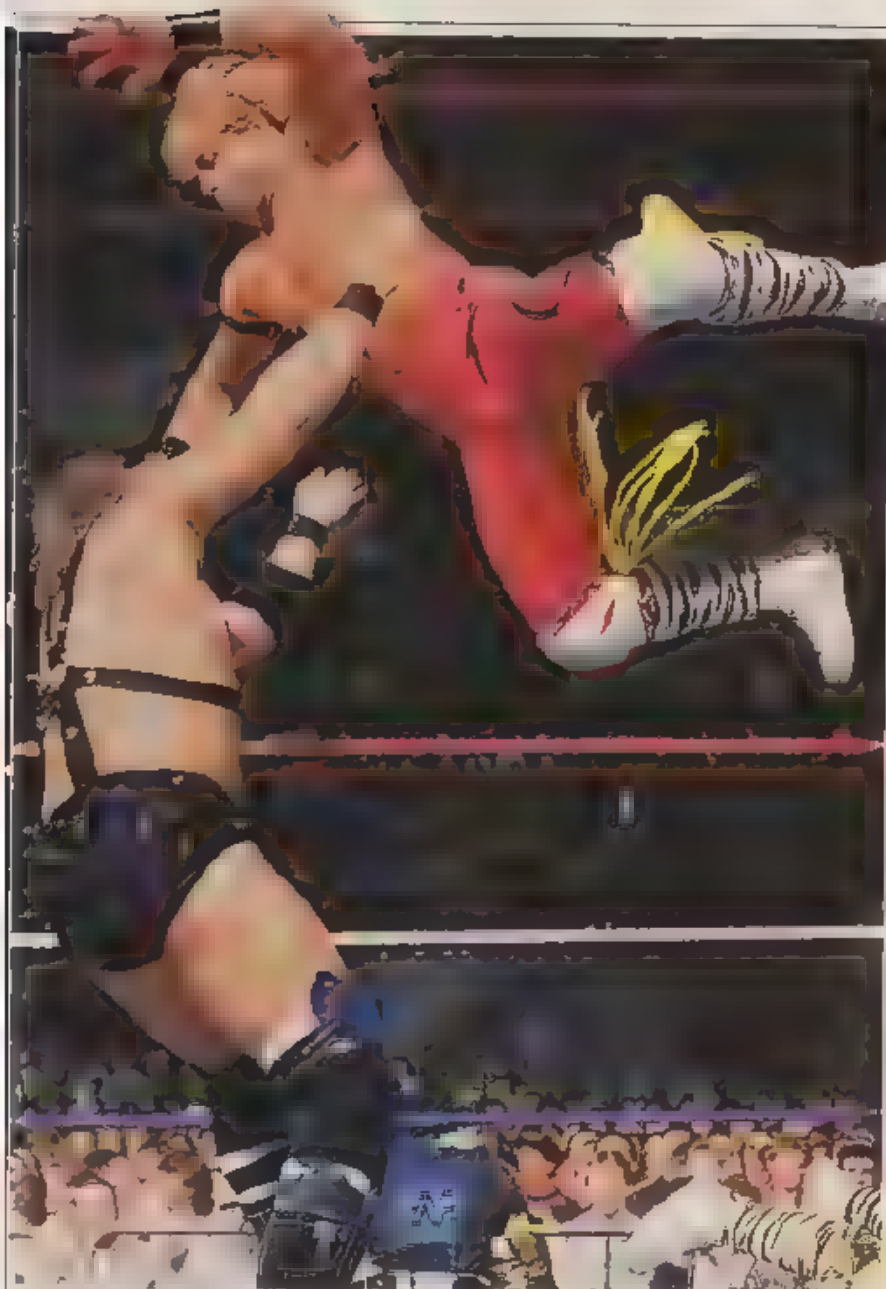
"When you get in that ring, you've got to turn it on as hard as you can," admits the Rocker, driving his fist into his palm. "If you don't, then you're destined to get your face rearranged or, worse yet, cause your partner to get injured. And if that's not enough, the teams that we wrestle usually try to wipe us out, brother, because everybody knows that a win over the Rockers can shoot you right up to the top. That's why I give my all in that ring, and Marty does the same because, unlike what some people think we ain't no stepping stone for any team!"

One team that feels the Rockers are a stepping stone is Power and Glory—Hercules and Paul Roma. More than anything else, Roma and Hercules would like to end the Rockers' wrestling careers. Here's what Michaels had to say when the team Power and Glory was mentioned:

"You know, at one time Marty and I had a lot of respect for Her-







**Shawn enjoys the challenge of competing against the best in the world. While wrestling, he can hurt foes with armbars before taking to the ropes and striking with bodyblocks. Furthermore, Michaels shines when wrestling man-on-man.**

cules and Paul Roma because of their wrestling skills and strict training habits," says Shawn. "But that respect has gone to pot ever since they got in our faces and picked no-account Slick as a manager. Well, boys, if you think

you're gonna run over us, think again. I won't let it happen, and neither will Marty!"

When *Spotlight* requested his views on teammate Marty Jannetty, Shawn, after some silence came up with this response:

"He's like a brother to me," Shawn reveals, looking into the distance as if to collect more thoughts. "I mean, if I'm in the ring getting my butt kicked, I can count on him to help me out. On top of that, I trust him with my life. Because of those high-risk moves the Rockers use, I require Marty's help and vice versa. It feels great, knowing that you're standing on someone's shoulders some 12 feet above the ring and 18 feet above the concrete below."

"Another good quality about Marty," continues Michaels after a brief pause, "is that he'll fight an opponent to the last breath. That's a good partner, and his guts and grit help make the Rockers one of the roughest tag teams in the World Wrestling Federation."

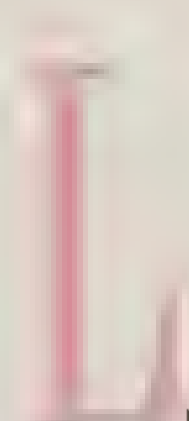
One of the toughest now, but what will help the Rockers remain one of the most formidable squads in the WWF for some time to come? What factors will determine their longevity in a highly competitive division?

"Our guts and our never-say-die attitude, that's what!" Shawn answers. "We're gonna take on whoever wants a piece of the Rockers, and we don't care about size, strength or attitude. Sure right now we have a score to settle with Power and Glory. But somewhere down the line, we might have to face Rhythm & Blues, Demolition or maybe even guys like the Legion of Doom. You never know. One thing's for sure: The Rockers will always be around the WWF as long as there's a challenge, and believe me, there's a challenge around every turn. Being ready for those challenges, the way we always are, makes a tag team great. And for those who know the Rockers, don't think I need to say any more! Whoa!" **WF**

# Marty Jannetty Talks

by Lou Gianfriddo

**Marty  
Has A Lot  
To Say**



KE SHAWN

Michaels, Marty Jannetty had a great deal to say about his personal life and future ambition for the Rockers.

"It's true, Shawn and I do lots of things together," Marty says. "That's because we're so much alike as individuals. We both like to chase girls, go out on the town, train and most of all, go up as a team against the best wrestlers in the world."

When asked about the Rockers in terms of being a competitive force in the World Wrestling Federation, Marty had this reply.

"You know, if you look at us, we may not be the most fearsome-looking dudes in the WWF," he confesses with an expression of sincerity. "But, if you mess with us, we can make up for that by going toe-to-toe and in all-out war. One thing the Rockers have is a lot of guts! We'll hit 'em from the ground, we'll hit 'em from the air, and when it comes down to the nitty-gritty, we'll hit 'em high and low in order to come out of the ring as winners, brother!"

Through continued discussion with Marty, *WWF Wrestling Spotlight* ascertained that Jannetty is aware of his physical abilities. When matched against larger and more powerful athletes such as Smash and Crush of Demolition, for in-

***Marty Jannetty has much in common with Shawn Michaels in that they both enjoy wrestling hard and living the night life***







**Jannetty knows that he cannot survive a brawl with athletes as huge as Demolition. To beat these men, Marty says, he has to hammer them from the air.**

stance, Marty knows that, if he chose to fight them nose-to-nose he would be giving away his best qualities. He speaks of other ways to overcome the behemoths of the WWF.

"Against guys like Demolition," Marty starts out, "you just can't trade blows with them and expect to come out on top. I mean, honestly, those boys built a reputation out of crackin' heads. So to counter that, the Rockers use an aerial arsenal that'll set anybody's pants on fire! You see, man, when we go to the air, there's not a soul in the WWF who can touch us, and that goes for Demolition and especially Power and Glory. We haven't forgotten about those boys at all."

When the Rockers confront Power and Glory in the ring, says Marty, the vicious duo of Paul Roma and Hercules will be in for a wrestling lesson by the recognized "tag team specialists."

Power and Glory, Hercules

and Paul Roma," shouts Jannetty, his face radiating emotion, "you guys think you are where it's at here in the World Wrestling Federation. Well, that's good, think that all you want because when you meet up with Shawn and me again, we're gonna show you what tag team wrestling is all about!"

Looking beyond Power and Glory, *Spotlight* discovered that Marty's plans for the future are similar to his partner's. Following

the Rockers' credo, Jannetty hopes to stay on the path to success. By defeating the most able-bodied squads in the WWF, Jannetty, like Shawn Michaels, feels that one day they will capture the WWF Tag Team Championship. Be it.

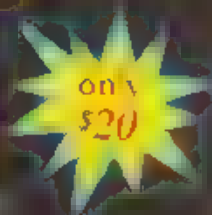
"We're just gonna take things one day at a time, the way we always have," Jannetty points out. And as we look down the long road, we know we're gonna get it. It's shots, and believe me, brother





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## Answers To The Rockers Trivia Quiz On Page 16

The answers to questions 1 through 25 are as follows: **ROCK AROUND THE CLOCK** 1) Columbus, Georgia, 2) San Antonio, Texas, 3) Power and Glory, 4) the double dropkick, 5) 463 pounds. **WRESTLEMANIA REVIEW** 6) the Orient Express, 7) his cane, 8) Jannetty was counted out of the ring, 9) the Twin Towers, 10) Akemi pinned Shawn Michaels. **ROYAL ROCKERS** 11) Marty, 12) three, 13) Ted DiBia, 14) Hulk Hogan, 15) the Ultimate Warrior. **MAKING WAVES** 16) Jesse Ventura, 17) glasses, 18) the Rougeaus, 19) Jimmy Hart, 20) party. **1989 BATTLES** 21) Jim Neichan, 22) Andre the Giant, 23) the Ultimate Warrior, 24) Tito Santana, 25) Rick Martel. See you next time.

### Answers To Million Dollar Trivia Tough Stuff

**TOUGH STUFF** answers: a) Palm Beach, b) January, c) Melvin P. Ostlander, d) they're both devious, e) dime-store junk.

### Winners of Spotlight Vol. 8 Tough Stuff

Alvin Gersau, Sherbrooke, Quebec, Canada, Joey Peoples, Modesto, California, Korcan Feyziyili, Brooklyn, New York, Donnie Burden, Xenia, Ohio, Matt Sisler, Hephzibah, Georgia.

*Looking beyond Power and Glory, Jannetty sees his team capturing the tag team title someday. To do so, he adds, the Rockers will have to wrestle at their best.*

the Rockers have what it takes to become the champions. We've got guts, we've got desire, we've got ability and, most of all, we've got heart! As I've said so many times, we're the masters of motion, hard to corner and impossible to stop. And that's what I think—and I know I'm speaking for Shawn, too—will help the Rockers go right to the top of the WWF. We're ready for it." **W**





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# Aiming At The Rockers

by Ed Ricciuti  
Keith Elliot Greenberg

## Power And Glory

ERCULES AND PAUL

Roma, who joined forces as a tag team, hired Slick as manager and then were labeled by him as Power and Glory, will probably tear this issue of *Spotlight* to shreds or use it as a dartboard. The reason, of course, is that *Spotlight* features the team that rouses tremendous envy and, accordingly, hatred in Power and Glory. The heavily muscled duo would like nothing more than to do to the Rockers what we believe Power and Glory will do with this magazine.

With the devious Slick guiding them, Power and Glory indeed pose a serious threat to the Rockers, even though relatively new as a tag team. It could take Power and Glory a long, long time to gain anything near the coordination of the Rockers, but even so, the strength of Slick's brutes and their considerable grappling abilities make them a true threat. Even the Rockers admit there is no way they can match Power and Glory in the muscle department.

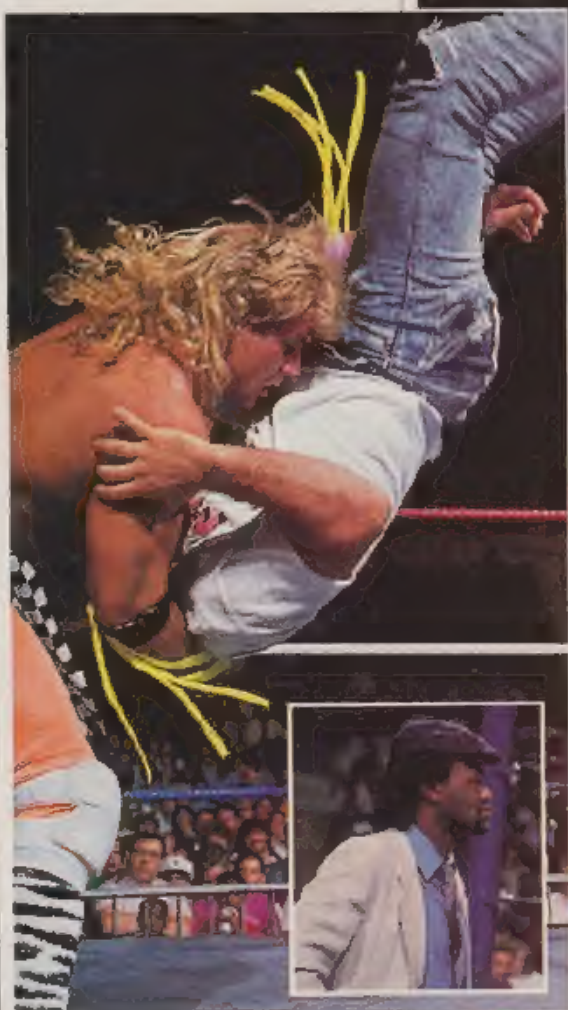
Roma, moreover, is no slouch when it comes to aerial maneuvers, although admittedly not in a class with the Rockers. He can go high for dropkicks, and because of his massive build, they strike with pulverizing impact.

Hercules' strong points are his pure power moves, such as the backbreaker and full nelson. If either of the Rockers is caught in such, he could be in for a very difficult time.

*Presently, the Rockers are engaged in a heated dispute with Slick's Power and Glory—Hercules and Paul Roma.*







**When Jannetty and Michaels collide with Roma and Hercules, expect to see a match of electrifying proportions. The Rockers could throw Power and Glory off-balance with stinging bodyslams and the like. Hercules and Roma could present a problem for the Rockers with power maneuvers. To make matters worse, the Slickster's devious tactics could also spell trouble for Marty and Shawn.**

The greatest danger posed by Power and Glory, perhaps, is not their prowess in the ring but in the gangly, sleazy person of their manager. As their claims to tag team greatness before they have established themselves indicate, neither Roma nor Hercules hides his light under a bushel. Neither, of course, does Slick. He also has a cunning, unscrupulous mind

that can conceive the most vicious of plots. Thus, he is an invaluable aid to Power and Glory.

"Rocker boys," oozes Slick, "the Powah and the Gloree gonna rock you good. They gonna rock you from post to post.

They gonna rock you onto the concrete. They gonna rock you to sleep. It's gonna be like gettin' hit by a rock right upside the head."

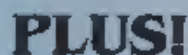
Slick knows that his tag team, being new, needs a convincing win over an established duo.







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*The Rockers' airborne ability will work in their favor against Power and Glory because Jannetty and Michaels could hit them like twin dive bombers, striking with flying fists, cross-bodyblocks and presses. To counter this aerial threat, Power and Glory will have to rely on their solid command of general wrestling skills.*

Looking back to when he was plotting the creation of Power and Glory, however, it is obvious he had a dilemma: how to get a big match fast. This is probably why, at Slick's urging, Power and Glory got under the Rockers' skin. Rockers Shawn Michaels and Marty Jannetty were pushed to the point they wanted: Power and Glory badly. And Slick wanted to get the Rockers into the ring even more. Slick and his Power and Glory, however, may find out that in Michaels and Jannetty a hive of hornets has been aroused.

Like hornets, the Rockers will sting Roma and Hercules with all kinds of maneuvers from the air. That could spell trouble for Slick's cocky duo. **WF**





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